First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Ypsilanti, MI
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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 10, 2016 10:00 am

Epiphany Celebrated

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Sing a Different Song"** **150 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Kelsie Molter

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Kelsie Molter

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Peace, Peace"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Kelsie Molter

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come.
The glory of God has risen among us.
Many: We are awake; we are alive!
Praise God for many blessings.
One: Lift up your eyes to see all around you.
Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.
Many: May justice water the earth like a shower;
Let righteousness and peace abound. Amen.

– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn** **"I Am the Light of the World"** **584 NCH**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Isaiah 43:1-7** Kelsie Molter

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Matthew 2:1-12** Carol Hall

Sermon **"End or Beginning?"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"** **160 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Traditional Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

O God, you love us like a good parent,
and are present in every aspect of our existence.
May your nature become known and respected by all.
May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality
for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way.
Give us all that we really need to live every day for you.
And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.
Keep us from doing those things which are not of you,
and cause us always to be centered on your love.
For you are the true reality in this our now,
and in all our future.
In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen.

-- David Sorrill, cited on http://rainbowcathedral.wordpress.com/prayers

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RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Carol Hall

For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, or incarcerated, we have dedicated ourselves as helpers and advocates. Help us to be your faithful stewards, in your world Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

*Prayer of Dedication *(Unison)* — Kelsie Molter

We are stewards of God's grace in this world. We are entrusted with the unsearchable riches of Christ. Gracious God, please provide your guidance as we look up and listen for your direction and our discovery of how faith provides for all. Please bless our work and those we come in contact with the light of your love. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Go Tell It On The Mountain"** **154 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: God sends us on our way, a bold and confident people.
Look up, and be guided by the star of joy.

Many: We will open our eyes to the presence of God.
We will look for God's activity all around us.
What we have received, we will pass on with joy!
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: www.ypsiucc.com

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Jan 10th	Next Sunday: Jan 17th
Usher	Lyle Molter	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Kelsie Molter	Wayne Burling
Worship Set-up	Glenda Horvath	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Glenda Horvath	Anne Marie N-T
Sunday School	Anne Marie N-T	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citrus Fruit Sale 2015-2016: January Shipment Orders are due no later than **January 11th**.
Delivery will be January 21 – 24th
Contact Tad Wysor (734) 483-3761 or Wayne Burling (734) 377-0696 if you have any questions.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .
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KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

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Art in the Christian Tradition

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Title:	Adoration of the Magi
Notes:	Dr. He Qi is a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary and a tutor for master candidate students in the Philosophy Department of Nanjing University. He is also a member of the China Art Association and a council member of the Asian Christian Art Association.
Date:	2001
Artist:	He, Qi
Object/Function:	Painting
Country:	China
Scripture:	Matthew 2:1-12
Person as Subject:	Three Wise Men
Lectionary links:	AEpDy BEpDy CEpDy
Library of Congress Subject:	Christian art and symbolism -- China
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